

KALA REPORTS

*~Christi Ramsey, ACP,
KALA President*

PRESIDENT'S POST

What does it take to make a difference? This was a question that was brought to my attention recently and one which has made me think about it at the most random of times. It really does not take much -- or it can take all that you have at that moment -- either way it can change things for a minute, an hour or even be a life changing experience for you or for someone else. This year one of the goals of the KALA Board was to recognize our volunteers for their efforts. It is easy to recognize those that volunteer their time to assist at events, but those that donate items for KALA 4 Kids and other community service needs are no less appreciated. Together, our KALA members do make a difference.

Last month, I had the pleasure of delivering one of the loads of winter supplies to an elementary school and the social worker at the school was extremely happy that we were able to provide the children with such nice quality items and with the volume that we collected. This was a very humbling experience. We have had several of our members give up their work day and use vacation time to volunteer to help with job fairs. This has not been a wasted effort as I have had high school students and a few counselors contact me to ask about the paralegal profession and to obtain additional information. The time spent in coordinating and growing our relationship with the WBA and our job registry has also expanded our role in the legal community. Not only are we growing our relationship locally, but we are being recognized by our national organization for our community

involvement. This October, KALA was contacted by Debbie Overstreet, ACP, who is the chair of the NALA Making a Difference Award for the 2016-2017 year. Her Committee chose to nominate KALA for this award based on reviewing our activities which were detailed in the most recent KALA Reports, which was submitted to NALA to be shared with other affiliated members. In her e-mail, she stated, "We noted that KALA has been very involved in the community. Among the activities we noted were: Judge's Day Bike Ride - 5 job fairs arranged by Wichita Public Schools; volunteered on Clean Slate Day; working providing legal services to community members seeking expungement of their criminal records; collected school supplies for Irving Elementary."

I am a strong supporter of pay it forward. I have participated in the "buy the person behind you breakfast" at McDonald's a time or two and it gave me a great feeling. I have also been the recipient of such a nice surprise. In addition, I have simply put a quarter in an expired meter as I was walking downtown so someone could avoid a parking ticket. It doesn't take much and I truly believe that our KALA members already actively support this concept. I have seen it first hand by the amount of support generated this year by the volunteers who have stepped forward to man the River Festival, the job fairs, Judge's Day, and provide donations for KALA 4 Kids. Thank you to all of our members for supporting this wonderful organization, our community and in choosing to make a difference!

KALA ANNUAL SEMINAR 2017

*~Shelly Bird, ACP
Annual Seminar Chair*

Save the Date for KALA's Annual Seminar!

KALA's 2017 Annual Seminar is set for Friday, June 16, 2017 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel. KALA's Seminar Committee includes: Shelly Bird, Courtney Webb, Linda Siders, Cheryl Clark, Katie Potter and LeAnn Lamar. The Committee will be meeting soon to begin getting all the details hammered out for the upcoming

seminar. We are excited to get some great speakers again this year, along with some great legal and shopping vendors.

If you have ideas for speakers, speaker topics, snacks, shopping, or legal vendors, please let me know and I will pass it along to the Committee.

We are looking forward to seeing you in June!

KALA 4 KIDS

*~Shelly Bird, ACP
Community Services Chair*

KALA 4 Kids is a community project KALA has been involved with for quite a few years. KALA members bring various items to our monthly meetings so we may donate them to less fortunate schools in the Wichita area, including school supplies, coats, hats, gloves, etc. We then deliver these items to various schools in need throughout the year.

In November and December, 2016, we collected several coats and accessory items from KALA members and delivered them to Washington

Elementary School and Irving Elementary School. I'd like to thank everyone who sent in items!

We have decided to continue the Coat Drive through January, 2017. If you have extra winter items that you would like to donate, please feel free to give me a call at (316) 291-9770 or (316) 708-9096 and I will make arrangements for pickup.

Thank you for your support for such a great cause.

RIVERFEST 2016

*~Annette Meece, ACP
1st Vice President*

Our group of volunteers had a great time at the RiverFest. We sold food court tickets on June 14, 2016 for a few hours. Our group included Buffy McCarty, Meaghan Koci, Carolyn Loffland, Gabby Crabtree, Renee Blasi, Krista Nelson, Suellen Petrillo, Annette Meece, and Doris Hite and her husband Jim.

The RiverFest Finance Committee greatly appreciates our help and sent us a thank you card showing their appreciation. I also want to personally thank everyone that joined in and hope everyone will mark their calendars for June 2 through 10, 2017 for the next RiverFest.



The RiverFest volunteers take a break long enough to pose for a photo. Pictured are Carolyn Loffland, Doris Hite, Annette Meece, Jim Hite, Buffy McCarty, Gabby Crabtree, Suellen Petrillo, Meaghan Koci and Renee Blasi.

NALA CONVENTION 2016

*~Christi Ramsey, ACP
KALA President*

When I headed to Las Vegas for the convention this year, I went with the idea of looking for confirmation of what I learned from taking the LEAP program last year. I wanted to know more about keeping our organization, volunteer work and expenditures aligned with our mission statement. Surprisingly, this was not what I took away from the convention. Although, in reading our mission statement along with our objectives and purposes, I feel that KALA does a great job in how we align ourselves. KALA's Mission Statement and Objectives & Purposes are:

Mission Statement

KALA is the professional association for the **Kansas Association of Legal Assistants • Paralegals**. Formed in 1981 and affiliated with the National Association for Legal Assistants, Inc. (NALA), KALA endorses recognition of a system of professional credentials for legal assistants/paralegals through certification, legal education, and/or specialized training.

Objectives & Purposes:

The purposes and objectives of the Association shall be as follows:

- A. To establish a good fellowship among members of the Association, NALA, and members of the legal community.
- B. To encourage a high standard of ethical conduct and professional achievement.
- C. To promote the profession of paralegals and legal assistants (collectively, "Paralegal(s)"), by educating the legal community and the public on the proper utilization of Paralegals, the education and certification opportunities for Paralegals, and to further outline and enhance Paralegals skills and knowledge in the legal community.
- D. To encourage and foster continuing legal education of the members of the Association.
- E. To cooperate with the local, state and American bar associations.
- F. To support and carry out the programs, purposes, aims, and goals of NALA.

As I stated in our kick-off meeting, we are currently researching the possibility of offering a scholarship option for current members interested in obtaining NALA certification which would fall perfectly into our objectives and purposes. Currently, we have liaisons established with the KBA and WBA, we are in good standing with NALA, and are active in the community. In speaking with the other affiliates at convention, KALA offers a lot of CLEs to our members – approximately 14 per year – which is a significant number of CLEs compared to other organizations.

In getting back on track for the purpose of this article, one of the things that I always ask myself after I attend a convention is "What did I take away from that experience?" This year, I took away the need to encourage and welcome new members to our organization. Retention of students was a concern that was brought up by many of our affiliate organizations as well as the need to recruit beginning paralegals to our organization. Many of the organizations have members that are retiring or are close to retiring and they are looking at their membership numbers dropping significantly in the near future. Discussions were also held on reaching out more on the use of technology to embrace long distance members who might be able to attend via web conferencing if location was an issue. Could conference rooms be equipped to handle such issues? Could organizations have their presenters speak to the group through a video conference big screen feature? Some of the affiliates mentioned having students attend via conference calls by going into a classroom and calling in as a group. Even though they were not present and were not connected to see the presenter, they could hear the presenter and at least participate more regularly. While this does present other options as well as potential complications, it does bring up some interesting ideas for future meetings.

The Board is always open for comment and feedback. If you have any ideas or suggestions on any of this content, please feel free to contact me or any other Board Member.

~Angela Oberle
NALA Liaison

NALA CONVENTION AND LEAP

New York, Paris, Mandalay Bay, Monte Carlo, Treasure Island, all within walking distance? Zip line down the old Vegas strip, ride in a gondola, watch a volcano erupt, watch beautiful fountains dance to popular music, take a ride on the High Roller? Only in Las Vegas can you do all this in just a couple of days. The National Association of Legal Assistants held their annual convention in Las Vegas this past summer and these were only some of the fun things to do and see in your spare time.

KALA was represented by seven members at the annual convention and had its table set up with the other affiliates. We talked with several associations and learned what they were doing and let them know what we were doing. We handed out KALA sewing kits which everyone loved. In addition to having our affiliates table, I also participated in the LEAP class. The last LEAP Class graduated at the Annual Convention in Las Vegas. I was honored to be a part of that class. While parts of the class remained the same as in prior years, we were part of a change in the new leadership classes to come in the future.

Our class was the largest ever, starting with 22, including 3 men. The size made it interesting when working on group projects as it was a little tougher to get everyone together to discuss the projects. My group of 5 was spread from Florida to Washington state. Unfortunately, my group lost two members along the way.

Our final project was also different from the past. Instead of a group skit to show what we learned, we each had to prepare a table presentation, similar to what each affiliation does with their table. We had to highlight one main

idea that we learned but also had to show other lessons as well. At Convention, we had 14 completely different tables, each one highlighting what that individual learned. My table



Angela Oberle staffs the KALA table at the 2016 NALA Convention.

highlighted the Six Hats and the most important message was you can only wear one hat at a time.

My time in LEAP was a journey of self-discovery. I was really challenged in areas I feel uncomfortable in, such as public speaking. I learned about some of my bad habits and where I need to improve. Before LEAP, I would never have contemplated writing this article. I encourage others to keep an eye on NALA for their new leadership programs.

SAVE THE DATE...

KALA Monthly Meeting Schedule:

March 7, 2017	Daniel Macias	Child Support Enforcement	Commerce
April 4, 2017	Richard Samaniego	Legislative Updates	EPIC
May 2, 2017	Chasity Helm	Document Management Ethics	Commerce

NALA's Annual Convention 2017: July 19 – 21, 2017, Orlando, Florida

WBA'S JUDGES' DAY 2016

*~Christi Ramsey, ACP
KALA President*



Buffy McCarty helps with registration at Judges' Day 2017.

On Thursday, September 29, 2016,
KALA assisted for the fifth straight year

with the WBA's Fifth Annual Judge's Day Bike Ride. The morning started off early with arrival time at 6:30 a.m. to begin set up and prepare for breakfast and registration. Suellen Petrillo began preparing her famous homemade ice cream immediately so that it would be ready for the runners by the end of the ride. Christi Ramsey, Tamy St. John and Buffy McCarty set up for breakfast and then Tamy and Buffy handled check-in and registration before heading off to Derby to man the SAG stop.

Suellen kept watch on her ice cream and ordered the box lunches for the riders return to the starting point. Katie Olsen and Margret Cramer joined Suellen Petrillo, Tamy St. John and Buffy McCarty at the starting point to final check the riders back in, serve them lunch and ice cream, and do final clean up. It was another successful joint venture with the WBA and another fun morning of interacting with the judges and attorneys.

WBA JOB FAIRS 2016

KALA was contacted for the second year to participate with the WBA in the USD 259 career fairs. As before, KALA was asked to set-up and man a booth to provide information to high school seniors who might be interested in the legal field with a better overall picture of what paralegals do and what the salary range would be should they enter this field. Armed with water bottles, KALA coozies, pamphlets, KALA pens, and chocolate candies, Laura Vitanova,

Annette Meece, Buffy McCarty and Chris Leetch headed to the high school gymnasiums to set up and man the tables for the four job fairs we were requested to attend for this school year. The feedback has been that this year was another successful year and that we will be contacted again next year. The students enjoyed the interaction with our members and took most of the information we had to offer.

CLEAN SLATE DAY

Clean Slate Day, organized by the Wichita Bar Association and Kansas Legal Services, took months of planning and preparation. The vision of the day was to provide citizens with the opportunity to expunge qualifying convictions off of their records free of charge. Court costs for processing the expungements were covered by a grant funding. Ultimately, over 900 people arrived early at the courthouse for assistance and the best of our legal

community provided services and processed expungements. Several hundred expungements were completed that day and numerous other expungements were finalized afterwards. Many helped that day were so thankful that tears were shed and hugs were exchanged. KALA was represented by our outstanding paralegal volunteers: Courtney Webb, ACP, Pam Madrid, Meaghan Koci, Tecia Philip, CLA, and Jaclyn McCaleb.

*~Christi Ramsey, ACP
KALA President*

*~Andi Elmore, CP
KALA 2nd Vice President*

TRENDS IN THE PARALEGAL PROFESSION

~Cheryl L. Clark, ACP
KBA Paralegal
Committee Member

**Reprinted with permission from the Kansas Bar Association, initially published in May 2016.*

As technology innovations continue to permeate the legal profession, paralegals have realized tremendous opportunities to develop the skills needed to apply these tools to benefit the lawyers they work with. In response to market demands, paralegal educators are adapting their programs to keep up with industry demands. Paralegal programs are becoming more popular. The availability of continuing legal education courses related to technology is increasing. Office managers are changing their training policies to better prepare today's paralegals for success in the workforce.

Paralegal roles are expanding, and law firms are looking for multiple skills and a wide variety of experience when they hire paralegals. Paralegal educators agree that a combination of strong technology skills, writing and communication skills, and hands-on experience help paralegals find a job when they get ready to enter the workforce. Other hot trends in paralegal education and CLE include e-learning and a greater demand for certain paralegal specialties.

Technology Training

As legal employers look for paralegals with advanced technology skills to increase their productivity, these skills are now essential for paralegals entering the workforce. Tech-savvy paralegals will always have the advantage in the legal job market. Technology skills can be developed by firms that take the time to train their paralegals through continuing education classes and allowing them to attend legal seminars. Some larger firms hold monthly training sessions for their paralegals, covering a variety of topics related to technology.

In many law offices, attorneys rely on paralegals to select, manage and operate law-related software. They assist in e-discovery, understand and manage databases, facilitate case management software, create searchable electronic documents, and orchestrate the technology aspects of trial presentations. As a result, paralegal programs are

expanding their technology offerings and are training students on a diverse array of word processing, spreadsheet, timekeeping, trial presentation, legal research and case management software. It is impossible for paralegal programs to teach every form of legal software available, but it is necessary for paralegal programs to introduce their students to new concepts and provide education in these areas. The more paralegals know about technology and legal software programs, the more job security they will have when they enter the workforce.

The growth of litigation support and the world of e-discovery have also prompted the increase of technology training in both paralegal programs and within law firms. The need for formal training is critical to the continued growth and advancement of the paralegal profession and those working in the litigation. Paralegals should strive to become the go-to person for technology applications and uses.

Enhanced Communication Skills

Another major trend in paralegal training and education is a focus on fundamental skills such as legal writing, communication and marketing. Many paralegal educators believe that students today lack oral and written communication skills that are needed in the legal profession. Educators are aware of and concerned with the lack of such basic skills for those entering their programs. As a result, programs are starting to place more emphasis on writing skills. Many paralegal educators believe employers should be asking for a writing sample from prospective paralegals.

Distance Learning

Distance learning, also known as e-learning, is one of the fastest-growing segments of higher education. Media and interactive technologies have increased the e-learning possibilities in both academic and workplace settings. (story continues on page 7)

The flexibility of taking classes at any time from any location is the norm in education today. Distance learning appeals to all students, and is especially popular among students with families who work full time jobs and have other obligations in their busy lives. Online continuing education classes are an excellent way for paralegals to make themselves more marketable, not only if they are looking to change jobs, but also if they are seeking to advance in their current place of employment.

As the paralegal profession evolves, legal specialties grow. Paralegal specialties popular in today's legal market include bankruptcy, immigration, litigation, collections/foreclosure and intellectual property. Electronically stored information is causing the growth of e-discovery and litigation as support specialties.

Education is key in the paralegal profession today. Over the last few years, the KBA Paralegal Committee has lost some valuable attorney and educator members to retirement. We would like to recognize those members at this time: Anita Tebbe, who retired from Johnson County Community College last year; John Conlee, who first served as the director of the paralegal program at Wichita State University and

then joined Newman University as the director of their paralegal program, and Kaye Rute, who retired from Washburn University. These members provided knowledge and direction to our committee, and are greatly missed.



About the Author

Cheryl L. Clark, has a combined 40 years of experience in the legal field and has worked for the law firm of Fleeson, Gooing, Coulson & Kitch,

L.L.C for the last 19 years. She obtained her associate's degree in legal assistant studies from Hutchinson Community College in 1990, her Certified Legal Assistant (CLA) designation in 1993 and her Advanced Certified Paralegal (ACP) designation in 2006 from the National Association of Legal Assistants. She is a past chair and current member of the KBA Paralegal Committee, past president of the Kansas Association of Legal Assistants, and a past member of the Certifying Board for the National Association of Legal Assistants. She currently serves as chairperson of the KBA Task Force for state certification for Kansas Paralegals, and is coordinator of the paralegal program at Hutchinson Community College.

www.cclarkfleeson.com

KBA PARALEGAL COMMITTEE REPORT

The KBA Paralegal Committee met on November 12, 2016 in Topeka at the offices of the KBA. The committee reviewed and approved minutes from the last meeting. We discussed an article that was written and published regarding education for paralegals in the May issue of the KBA Journal. We discussed continuing education opportunities for paralegals and co-branding opportunities.

The paralegal committee would like to have a bigger presence at conferences and seminars. We discussed how to be more involved in different state association meetings and seminars and even having a presence at the KBA Annual Meeting and Seminar. The KBA Paralegal Standards and Guidelines have been updated and are now available on the KBA website.

The biggest topic of discussion was the KBA's decision to offer free KBA membership to students of any Kansas College or University. Students would need to show proof of enrollment in a paralegal program to obtain the free membership. Students will get the full benefits of KBA membership and can attend KBA Continuing Education seminars free of charge. Students would be responsible for paying a fee for lunch at the CLE event. Students will not be allowed to vote. Listed below is a link for students to obtain copies of the brochures which will give them all the information they need to apply for free membership. Anyone who knows of a paralegal student should share this information as it is a great benefit.

http://www.ksbar.org/?page=paralegal_resources

*~Cheryl L. Clark, ACP
KBA Paralegal
Committee Member*

*~Volunteer Thanks –
KALA Appreciates You!*

Judge's Day:

Margret Cramer
Buffy McCarty
Katie Olsen
Suellen Petrillo
Christi Ramsey
Tamy St. John

Job Fairs:

Chris Leetch – 12/1 at Northwest High
Buffy McCarty – 11/9 at Wichita
Alternative and 12/1 at Northwest High
Annette Meece – 11/16 at North High
Laura Vitanova – 10/27 at West High
and 11/16 at North High



Judges' Day Volunteers: Margret Cramer, Tamy St. John, Suellen Petrillo, Buffy McCarty and Katie Olson working hard to prepare snacks, lunch and homemade ice cream.

*~Christine Leech
Scholarship Chair*

2016-2017 KALA SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

KALA received four scholarship applications from Kate Langworthy, Fred Pinaire, Ieshia Peters and Kristi Konda. We awarded each of them a \$250.00 scholarship. Kate Langworthy is attending Newman University; Fred Pinaire is attending Newman University;

Ieshia Peters is attending Newman University; and Kristi Konda is attending Hutchinson Community College. I will be sending out letters to the colleges and area high schools with our application for the 2017-2018 school year.

*~Dacia Kennedy
KALA Director*

2017 KALA STUDY GROUP

NALA offers testing January, May and September of each year with application deadlines the month prior. More about testing and qualifications may be found here: <https://www.nala.org/certification/exam-application-and-qualifications>.

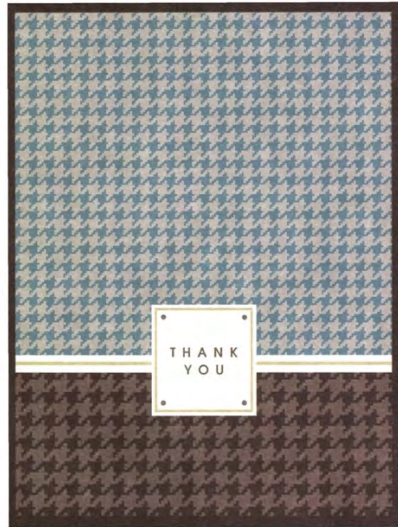
The schedule for study group tentatively has 14 sessions meeting every 2 weeks and is flexible based on the group. The

current group started their study schedule on February 7, 2017 in anticipation of taking the exams in September 2017. Anyone can join this group at any point along the way.

If you have any questions or would like to be part of the group, please don't hesitate to contact me:
Dacia.Kennedy@INTRUSTBANK.COM.

KALA KUDOS!

~Thank you card from
Kate Langworthy



Dear KALA Officers and members,

Thank you so much for choosing me as the recipient of this year's scholarship. As I continue on my journey towards my Paralegal Studies degree, any and all support is greatly appreciated. The additional funds were enough to cover my textbooks for this semester with some to spare. My academic endeavors are ultimately for the benefit of my small family, so the appreciation is coming from

more than just me. Thank you for continuing to support those of us working in the field and trying to better ourselves through education. I'm looking forward to a great school year and will look forward to seeing all of you at the monthly meetings.

Sincerely,
Kate
Langworthy

8-23-16

~Thank you card from
the RiverFest Finance
Committee

Alan
Sis
Kimi
Jean
Debra
Sandy
Landy
Jessica
Ruth

Dear Annette,

Thank you so much for coordinating Riverfest ticket sellers for us this year. We truly rely on your partnership and it helps out so much when we know we are going to have a shift full of fun and helpful volunteers. We hope to see you all next year!

Thanks,
The Finance Committee
"Purple Shirts"



CANDID KALA CAMERA!



Gaye Tibbets presents during the 2016 KALA Seminar. *Angela Oberle at KALA's LEAP table at the 2016 NALA Convention.*



2016 NALA Seminar KALA Attendees: Shelly Bird, Cheryl Clark, Dacia Kennedy, Angela Oberle, Christi Ramsey, Mary Potter, and Linda Siders.



Justice Carol Beier speaks to members during the 2016 KALA Annual Seminar.



Tim Faulhaber with Appino & Biggs prepares for shoppers during the 2016 KALA Annual Seminar.



Pattie Durham with MODE takes a break from helping shoppers during the 2016 KALA Annual Seminar